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1938.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH

OF THE

Rural Sanitary District

OF THE

ISLE OF WIGHT

BY

W. S. WALLACE, M.C., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

Isle of Wight:

W. BLAKE AND SON, PRINTERS, TOWN LANE,

NEWPORT.

Isle of Wight Rural District Council.

W. S. WALLACE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

With the Compliments
of the
Medical Officer of Health.

County Hall,
Newport, I. W.

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County Hall,
Newport, I.W.
June, 1939.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my thirteenth Annual Report on the Sanitary circumstances, Sanitary Administration and Vital Statistics for the year 1938.

The report is in accordance with Circular 1728 of the Ministry of Health and the tables are in the prescribed form.

The year has been a healthy one and the amount of infectious disease apart from measles has been negligible.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. S. WALLACE,
Medical Officer of Health.

Section A.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	57,463
Estimated Population (1938)	15,740
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to rate books	5,434
Rateable value	£108,653
Sum represented by a penny rate	£436

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The area is mainly rural and the industries mainly agricultural. There is also a large fluctuating population of seaside and other visitors.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births—	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*
Legitimate ...	182	95	87
Illegitimate ...	11	6	5

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—12.3

Still Births—	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*
Legitimate ...	8	6	2
Illegitimate ...	1	1	—

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—44.6

	Total	*Males*	*Females*
Deaths	213	116	97

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—13.5

Death from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List).

	Deaths	*Rate per* 1,000 (*Live & still*) *births*
No. 29 puerperal sepsis	—	—
No. 30 other puerperal causes	—	—
Total	—	—

Death rate of infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births	36.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	22.0
Illegitimate ,, illegitimate ,,	272.7

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
,, Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	Nil
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1
,, Cancer (all ages)	35

BIRTHS.

The total number of births was 202. This gives a birth-rate of 12.8 per 1,000 living, the birth-rate for England and Wales generally being 15.7.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths was 213, giving a crude death-rate of 13.5 per 1,000, of the estimated resident population. The Registrar General gives a comparability figure of 0.73 which makes a comparative death-rate of 9.8 ; the death-rate for England and Wales being 11.6.

The causes of death were as follows :—

	Males	*Females*
All Causes	116	97
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
Measles	—	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Influenza	4	1
Encephalitis lethargica	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	1	2
Other tuberculous diseases	—	2
Syphilis	—	2

	Males	*Females*
General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	1	—
Cancer, malignant disease	10	25
Diabetes	1	3
Cerebral haemorrhage, &c.	5	7
Heart disease	46	26
Aneurysm	—	—
Other circulatory diseases	5	5
Bronchitis	2	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	6	3
Other respiratory diseases	1	—
Peptic ulcer	1	—
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) ...	—	1
Appendicitis	2	1
Cirrhosis of liver	—	—
Other diseases of liver, &c. ...	—	3
Other digestive diseases	6	—
Acute and chronic nephritis	4	1
Puerperal sepsis	—	—
Other puerperal causes	—	—
Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, &c.	1	2
Senility	4	4
Suicide	2	—
Other violence	5	1
Other defined diseases	9	7
Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	—
Diarrhoea (2 years and over)... ...	—	—
Special Causes (included above)		
Small-pox	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—
Polioencephalitis	—	—

NATURAL INCREASE OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS.

Year		*Births*	*Deaths*	*Increase*
1921-1925	...	2212	1672	540
1926-1930	...	1926	1723	203
				Decrease
1931-1935	...	1407	1429	22
				Increase
1936	...	206	186	20
				Decrease
1937	...	185	216	31
1938	...	202	213	11

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The total number of deaths under one year of age was 7. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 36.3 per 1,000 registered live births, the rate for England and Wales generally being 53.

Section B.—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(i) PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health : W. S. Wallace, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors :—

H. B. Cullin, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

F. W. Buxton, A.M.I.M.C.E., M.R.S.I.

T. W. Robertshaw, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

The services of Mr. A. Buxton, formerly Senior Sanitary Inspector, are retained in an advisory capacity with reference to inspection of sewage and other works in the West Wight.

(ii) SERVICES PROVIDED.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

There has been no change in these since my last report.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

These are adequate in normal times and no change has taken place since last reported on.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

Home Nursing is done by the District Nurses of the various District Nursing Associations.

(d) MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES. CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

These are as described in previous reports.

(e) HOSPITALS.

A full report was made on these in 1930 and since then no change has taken place.

Section C.—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(i) WATER.

No special difficulties were experienced during the year and none of the supplies were restricted.

Bembridge.

There is nothing to report on this supply beyond a more adequate pressure on the high levels due to the laying of a short length of new 6in. main from the reservoir.

Brighstone.

The construction of the proposed new reservoir has not yet commenced owing to difficulties experienced in purchasing the necessary site.

Freshwater.

A new main was laid in Copse Lane.

Niton.

The new reservoir and rising mains were completed during the year.

South Arreton.

A scheme for the supply of this Parish was prepared by your Consulting Engineer. This report has been submitted to the Isle of Wight Regional Water Committee before being forwarded to the Ministry of Health for approval.

(**ii**) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

At Freshwater a new storm water pumping plant and main were installed and it is hoped that this will lessen the flooding caused in low lying districts during rain storms.

Otherwise no alteration was made in the systems of Drainage and Sewerage.

2. *Rivers and Streams.*

No action was found necessary to check pollution of the rivers and streams in the area.

3. (i) *Closet Accommodation.*

Seven privy pits were abolished and 19 premises with closets on the conservancy system were connected to cesspools and 21 to sewers.

The number of houses now connected to sewers in the Rural District is 3,859.

(ii) *Public Cleansing.*

There is no change to report.

An improvement was shown in the refuse tips at Yarmouth and Freshwater.

(iii) TABULAR SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE SANITARY STAFF.

Total number of Inspections and Re-inspections made 5038.

Nuisances—

Number of Visits paid	368
Complaints received	296
Nuisances found (on complaint)	123
Informal Notices issued	99
Statutory Notices issued	1
Nuisances abated	108

The Commonest Nuisances Remedied were—

Accumulations of Refuse	38
Defective Closets	27
Defective Drains	74
Overflowing or Objectionable Cesspools ...	38

Drainage and Closet Conveniences—
(In existing and new houses).

Number of Visits paid	460
Houses drained to Sewers	103
Houses drained to Cesspools	57
Water Closets provided	184
Pail Closets provided	9
Privy Pits abolished	21

Water Supplies—

Number of Visits paid	440
Samples taken for Analysis	29
Houses connected to Mains	98

Sewage Works—

Number of Visits paid	471

Construction and Re-construction of Buildings—

Number of Visits paid	650
Plans approved	202
Completed	150

Housing—

Number of Visits paid	1227
Preliminary Notices issued	112

Dairies, Cowsheds, Etc.—

Number of Visits paid	942
Cleansing Notices issued	609
Contraventions Found	85
Contraventions remedied	75

Carbide or Petrol Stores—

Number of Visits paid	56
Contraventions found	Nil
Contraventions remedied	Nil

Bakehouses—

Number of Visits paid	54
Cleansing, etc., Notices issued	37
Contraventions found	7
Contraventions remedied	7

Workshops (excluding Bakehouses)—

Number of Visits paid	142
Cleansing, etc., Notices issued	29
Contraventions found	6
Contraventions remedied	6

Slaughterhouses, Etc.—

Number of Visits paid—	1011
Contraventions found	4
Contraventions remedied	4

Meat Shops and Depots and Other Food Shops

Number of Visits paid	107
Contraventions found	2
Contraventions remedied	2

Infectious Diseases (including Tuberculosis)

Number of Visits paid	5
Number of Rooms Disinfected	5
Number of Articles of Bedding destroyed ...	Nil

iv *Shops*—

No action has yet been taken with regard to ventilation and heating of existing shops but when sanitary conveniences were absent these have been provided where considered necessary.

v *Camping Sites*—

(1) The number of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1938 ... 27

(2) The number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the local authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 19

(3) The estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, 1938 4055

These figures do not include the organised holiday camps, of which there are nine in this district, accomodating some 1,900.

vi *Smoke*—

No action was taken during the year.

vii *Swimming Baths and Pools*—

None of these exist in the area except in connection with private houses.

viii *Eradication of Bed Bugs*—

No cases of infected premises have yet been observed in the area.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	26	4	—
Factories without mechanical power ...	64	14	—
Other premises under the † Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers premises)	39	12	—
† Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.			
Total	129	30	—

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness	13	13		
Overcrowding				
Unreasonable temperature				
Inadequate ventilation				
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	1	1		
Sanitary Conveniences — insufficient	1	1	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences — unsuitable or defective	4	1	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences — not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—
Other offences				
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health [Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers] Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.				
Total	20	20		

SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary conditions and water supplies of these are generally satisfactory. Weekly returns of the number of children absent on account of infectious disease are received from the Head Teachers, and from these any unusual incidence of un-notifiable infectious disease can be observed.

Section D.— HOUSING.

STATISTICS.

1.—*Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year—*

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	838
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1227
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	591
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	602
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	10
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	130

2.—*Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	97

3.—*Action under Statutory Powers during the year—*

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—

(a) By owners 1

(b) By local authority in default of owners Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—

(a) By owners 1

(b) By local authority in default of owners Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 4

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... Nil

I.—*Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.*

(a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of year 7

II.	Number of families dwelling therein	7
III.	Number of persons dwelling therein	58
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c) I.	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	8
II.	Number of persons concerned in such cases	53

NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR 1938.

Parish.	Total.	Parish.	Total.	Parish.	Total.
Bembridge	...14	Freshwater ...	22	Shalfleet	...11
Brading	... 3	Gatcombe ...	4	Shorwell	... 1
Brighstone	... 4	Godshill ...	2	South Arreton	—
Calbourne	... 2	Newchurch	5	Totland	... 1
Chale	... 6	Niton and Whitwell	3	Yarmouth	... 3
Total	... ...		81		

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply*—

The steady improvement in premises used for the production of milk continues. At the end of 1938 there were 27 Accredited Producers and 8 Tuberculin Tested Producers in the area.

(b) *Meat and Food Inspection*—

The additional Sanitary Inspector commenced his duties on the 1st of January, and he has carried out the inspection of all meat slaughtered for human consumption. The following table on the Ministry's prescribed form shows the number of animals inspected during or after slaughter and the number condemned.

CARCASES INSPECTED OR CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	55	22	304	804	2031
Number inspected ...	55	22	304	796	2017
All diseases except T.B.—					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	1	1	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	2	2	20	46
Percentage of the Number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	1.81	9.1	0.98	2.63	2.37
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcases condemned	1	1	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	2	—	—	201
Percentage of the Number inspected affected with tuberculosis... ...	12.7	13.6	—	—	10.1

(e) *Nutrition.*

No special steps were taken for the dissemination of knowledge on nutrition, but the County Medical Staff gives lectures to Women's Institutes, etc., on this and other health subjects.

(f) *Shellfish.*

There are oyster beds at Newtown Creek and these are in my opinion free from pollution. The oysters are taken from these layings and marketed in Cowes, I.W.

Oysters and other shell fish marketed in the district by the Mac Fisheries, Ltd., are obtained mainly from layings of their own in the Duchy of Cornwall.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

SCARLET FEVER.

Nine cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, affecting five parishes. All cases were mild and there were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA.

No case was notified during the year.

PNEUMONIA.

Seven cases of Pneumonia were notified during the year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Two cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year and both recovered.

ERYSIPELAS.

Three cases of Erysipelas were notified during the year, all of whom recovered.

TYPHOID AND PARATYPHOID FEVERS.

No case was notified during the year.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The prevalence of non-notifiable Infectious Diseases is estimated from the weekly returns of the Head Teachers of the schools. These returns for the year show that there were 42 cases of Whooping Cough, 32 of Chicken Pox, 28 of Mumps, 12 of Influenza, 232 of Measles, 9 of Ringworm, and 16 of Influenzal Colds.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease	*Total cases Notified*	*Cases admitted to Hospital*	*Total Deaths*
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	9	7	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	1	—
Pneumonia	7	—	—
Other Diseases generally notifiable :—			
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Other Diseases Notifiable locally ...	—	—	—
Totals ...	21	8	—

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age.	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Poliomyelitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
2 ,, ,, 3	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 ,, ,, 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 ,, ,, 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ,, ,, 10	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 ,, ,, 15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 ,, ,, 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 ,, ,, 35	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
35 ,, ,, 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 ,, ,, 65	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Totals	—	9	—	—	2	7	3	—	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN PARISHES.

Name of Parish.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Poliomyelitis	Opthalmia Neonatorum
Bembridge ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brading ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Brighstone ...	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Brooke ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Calbourne ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Chale ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Freshwater ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gatcombe ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Godshill ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newchurch ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Niton ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shalfleet ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shorwell ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
South Arreton	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Thorley ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totland ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Yarmouth ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	9	—	—	2	7	3	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

The total number of notifications of tuberculosis received during the year amounted to 19, including 3 transfers from other areas within the Island, and 4 from the Mainland. In addition one old case previously cured was re-admitted and one case which had left the Island, returned, making the total number of cases added to the Register during the year, 21. Of this number, 16 were Pulmonary and 5 Non-Pulmonary. At the beginning of the year the Register contained the names of 65 cases, making the total number of cases in the District during the year 86. Of the 86 patients whose names appear on the Register, 6 died (including one from another disease), 5 left the District, 3 recovered, and 1 had been lost sight of, leaving 71 on the Register at the close of the year. Of these 71 cases, 51 were Pulmonary and 20 Non-Pulmonary.

AGE PERIODS	Total	New Cases.				Total	Deaths.			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F
0 and under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ,, ,, 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ,, ,, 10	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 ,, ,, 15	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1
15 ,, ,, 20	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
20 ,, ,, 25	5	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 ,, ,, 35	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 ,, ,, 45	2	1	1	—	—	2	—	2	—	—
45 ,, ,, 55	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 ,, ,, 65	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	16	5	7	1	3	5	1	2	—	2

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

CASES			Vision Un-impaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	TREATED					
	At Home	In Hospital				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TOTLAND BAY METEOROLOGICAL TABLE, 1938.

Month	Maximum	Average Minimum	Mean Temperature	Rain in Inches.	.01 or more Rain Days.	Hours of Sunshine.	Sunless Days.
January	48.1	40.5	44.3	3.62	23	49.3	10
February	45.5	37.6	41.6	0.63	9	80.8	8
March	53.9	40.7	47.3	0.24	5	190.4	1
April	54.7	38.4	46.5	0.00	0	210.9	1
May	57.5	44.2	50.8	1.54	12	180.6	1
June	64.0	52.0	58.0	0.59	7	240.5	0
July	64.7	54.1	59.4	1.98	13	175.8	0
August	69.5	56.3	62.9	1.55	6	207.7	1
September	65.4	52.5	58.9	1.91	11	161.3	1
October	58.5	49.3	53.9	3.68	19	124.9	3
November	55.5	47.8	51.6	4.51	22	47.1	9
December	45.8	38.9	42.3	3.30	21	49.7	11
Year	56.9	46.0	51.4	23.65	148	1719.0	46

The rainfall of 23.65 inches was 5.4 inches below the average for the last 52 years (29.10)

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